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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Economic
Cooperation among Developing Countries
Third session
Geneva, 19 June 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD Secretariat

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Committee Shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members. These officers shall constitute the Bureau as specified in rule 19. The Bureau shall consist of four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I above was approved by the Standing Committee at its second session (11 to 15 January 1993)[1].

As provided for in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the Standing Committee will have available five working days from 19 to 23 June 1995. At the first meeting, on 19 June 1995, an opening statement will be made by the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD or his representative, followed by the introduction of items 3, 4 and 5. It is suggested that the rest of Monday, 19 June and the morning of Tuesday, 20 June 1995 be devoted to discussions under item 3 of the agenda. Item 4 of the agenda may be discussed as from the afternoon of 20 June and discussions on it could continue until the end of the morning of 21 June. Items 5 and 6 may be discussed on the afternoon of 21 June and perhaps the morning of 22 June. Thereafter time should be allowed for the preparation of the draft report, to be submitted to the plenary on 23 June 1995.

Item 3: Enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries and promoting cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries

With a view to assisting the Standing Committee in its deliberations on this item, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries and promoting cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries" (TD/B/CN.3/13). Chapter I takes up the general subject of monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries. Under this general rubric, the following areas are covered: clearing and payments arrangements of developing countries; monetary coordination and harmonization; cooperation in trade-finance; cooperation in regional/subregional financial markets; and financial flows among developing countries. Under each of these areas a set of issues and policy proposals relating to deepening and enlarging cooperation are identified in bold letters.

In chapter II the area of deepening and encouraging cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries is taken up. After an introductory part outlining recent changes in the policy environment, various aspects of enterprise cooperation are discussed. These include cooperation in free zones, in production, investment and joint ventures. Possibilities for enterprise cooperation in privatized sectors as well as sectors of accrued comparative advantage and industrial experience are also outlined. Cooperation in technology and services are also outlined in addition to trade and production sectors. The chapter also covers investment cooperation; it reviews the most recent evidence and outlines

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[1] Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries on its second session (TD/B/41(2)/7-TD/B/CN.3/11, annex II).

possible avenues for new cooperation. In each area a set of recommendations and possible action proposals are made in bold letters throughout the chapter.

Item 4: Evaluation of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including implications of the Uruguay Round results on ECDC arrangements and regular consultations, technical support, assistance and skill development

In order to assist the Standing Committee in its deliberations on this item, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Evaluation of major developments in the area of economic cooperation among developing countries, including implications of the Uruguay round results on ECDC arrangements and regular consultations, technical support, assistance and skill development" (TD/B/CN.3/14). The report reviews salient recent developments since mid-1992 in the areas of South-South and South-North cooperation. This covers inter-regional and mixed forms of cooperation in trade, money, finance, investments, technology and production, as well as cooperation among integration groupings. After that, the report reviews recent cooperation on the regional/subregional levels in each of the developing-country regions.

In chapter II, and in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its second session, the implications of the Uruguay Round on developing-country cooperation are analysed with view to raising policy issues and, where appropriate, proposing policy action. The scope of the paper includes such issues as consistency of existing arrangements and preference areas with the new system of the Round, impact on regional industrial policies, on subsidies, on agricultural cooperation and cooperation in services. The paper also discusses the possible role of integration groupings in future negotiations. As with chapter I, issues and policy proposals are identified for each area and printed in bold letters.

In chapter III, the paper deals with "regular consultations". It identifies the areas in which the dialogue among donors and ECDC participants can further their cooperation, and makes specific suggestions for streamlining and harmonizing administrative procedures for assistance. It proposes several initiatives for collecting, processing and disseminating information of relevance to the dialogue and makes some proposals about modes of channelling assistance to ECDC entities.

Chapter IV provides a summary of the UNCTAD Secretariat's activities in technical assistance, training and skill development, outlining some of the problems encountered and pointing out the direction of future activities in some areas.

Item 5: Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee, with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX

The Standing Committee has before it under this item a document entitled "Review of the work programme of the Standing Committee on ECDC, with special emphasis on the preparations for UNCTAD IX" (TD/B/CN.3/15).

After reviewing the legislative background to the Committee's work programme, the paper summarizes in chapter II the state of implementation. It reviews implementation by the Committee, Governments and the secretariat. In chapter III, the paper places the orientation of the future work of UNCTAD in the context of the dominant trends in the world economy, namely globalization and liberalization, and emphasizes cooperation with and among developing countries. The convergence of these trends leads to what the paper calls "open and flexible ECDC". After elucidating the policy contents of this concept, the chapter presents various initiatives which fit into this perspective. Chapter IV provides suggestions on the future orientation of ECDC in UNCTAD in several salient areas, emphasizing the

role of UNCTAD in interregional aspects of ECDC and in areas where it has specific expertise and accumulated experience. Within this perspective, several suggestions are outlined, including the area of technical assistance.

In addition to the three sessional documents described above, and in view of the substantive contents of the above three items, the secretariat is making available to the Standing Committee 13 technical background documents grouped under three group designations - (MF), (E), and (G) - indicating that their subject-matter relates to monetary, financial and investment issues; enterprise cooperation; and general ECDC respectively.

Item 6: Other business

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee on its third session will be considered by the Trade and Development Board.